

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 43, line 9 with the following new paragraph:

--There are two major embodiments of the present invention: (1) a printed embodiment 11 (shown in Figure 1) requiring only the commonly available (personal) computer peripheral of a printer to fix in a tangible medium (i.e., to print on paper) and (ii) an electronic embodiment (shown in Figures 2 and 3), fixed in the tangible medium of a flexible disk 12 or a CD-ROM or a DVD 13 or a smart card or equivalent by a writer of these forms of digital memory.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 44, line 19 with the following new paragraph:

--The consumer uses his/her browser to connect to the ticketing service's web server, and purchase the ticket(s) using a standard payment mechanism such as a credit-card transaction. The ticketing server delivers the ticket to the consumer's browser organized, most preferably, in the form of a 2-D bar-code (and, optionally, some accompanying text), which is then printed. The consumer need not arrive at the event early to pick up tickets; instead, the printed 2-D bar coded digital ticket 11 is simply presented to the ticket taker, who verifies it with a laser scanner.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 44, line 28 with the following new paragraph:

--The digital data encoded in the 2-D bar code 14 is central to the ticketing mechanism. Like as in the generation of digital postage indicia, or “e-stamps”, in the present invention the server generates an encrypted digital signature that is part of the ticket data. Unlike the generation of postage indicia, however, the scheme of the present invention provides the additional assurance that even if the ticketing server is compromised, the consumer’s ticket cannot be stolen by attackers and the legitimate consumer framed for duplicate redemption. The ticket issuance protocol is as follows:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 46, line 28 with the following new paragraph:

--Ticket redemption simply involves scanning the 2-D bar code, verifying the signature, checking the information **I** is for the particular event for which the ticket 11 is tendered, and checking that the encoded **R** value is indeed the pre-image of the signed hash value. Additionally, the value **R** is logged as evidence that the ticket 11 has been canceled or redeemed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 11 with the following new paragraph:

--The paper-based digital ticket 11 further presents a region 113 where is contained the information of the ticket. This also may be in plain text, as would be read and recognized by an optical character reader (OCR). Preferably this information is in the form of a bar code, and more preferably a two-dimensional bar code, as illustrated. The printed two-dimensional bar code is still more preferably in accordance with either the PDF417 or QR standards.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 30 with the following new paragraph:

--The same information that is held within the printed embodiment of the digital ticket 11 of the present invention shown in Figure 1, and more, may readily be held within embodiments such as the flexible disk 12 shown in Figure 2. This flexible disk 12 will be understood to be roughly commensurate in size, volume and area with numerous other types of transportable magnetic and optical storage media including CD-ROMs, and DVDs 13 (Figure 3), and smart cards (not shown). Despite being claimed, these well-known physical forms are not all individually illustrated, as is the flexible disk 12 of Figure 2, because such illustrations add veritably nothing to the understanding of the present invention. A most interesting form from a functional perspective is the smart card (not shown).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 14 with the following new paragraph:

--For example, ~~man~~many different digital signature algorithms, both private and public key, are suitable for use in the digital ticket of the present invention.--